LODI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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HALLOWEEN FUN

By Janice Roth

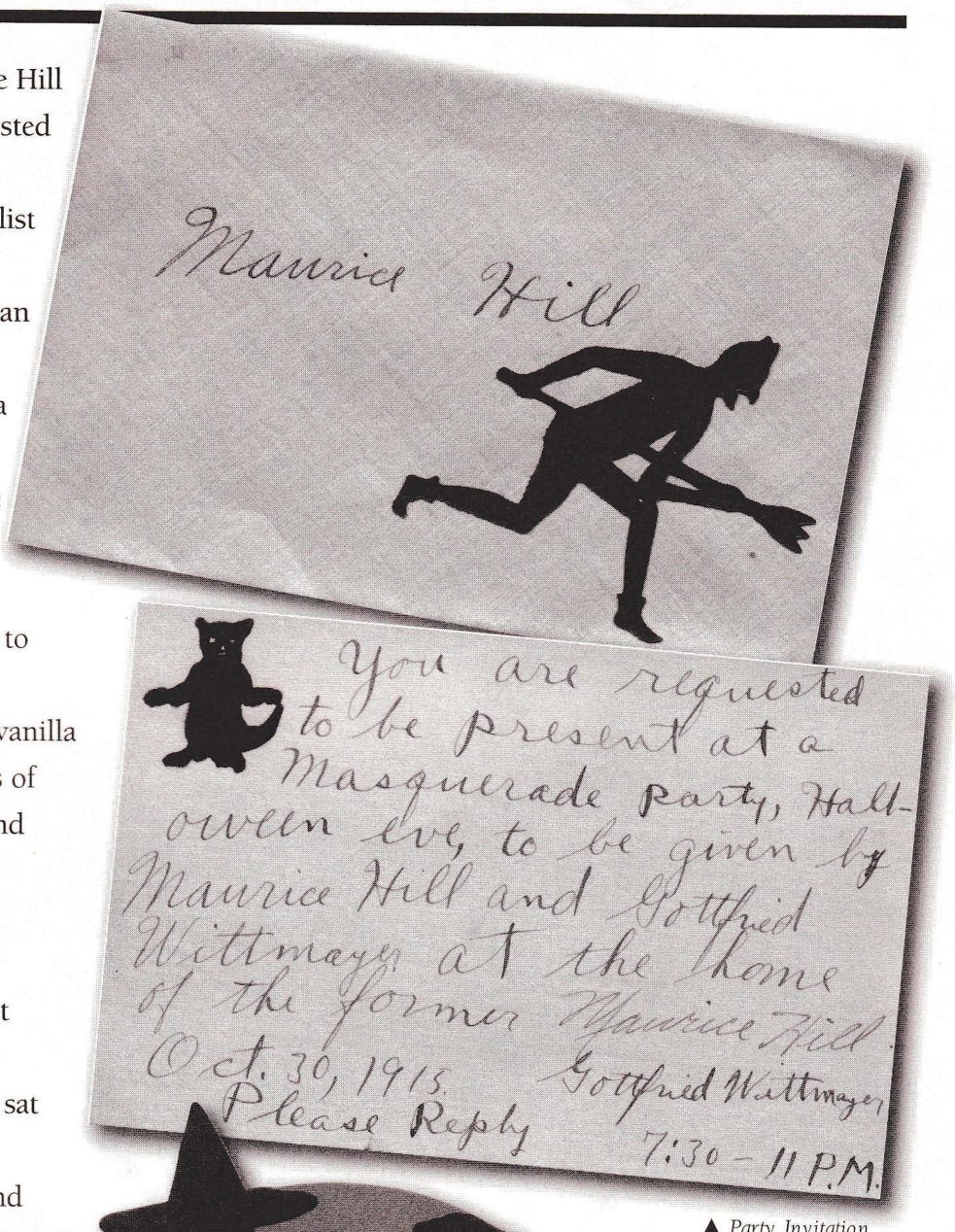
In the earlier days of Lodi, life was much different. Imagine, if you will, the days before television, cell phones, computers, air travel, and copy machines. Children and adults alike had to talk to each other face to face, they had to write letters and notes to each other and they had to use their imagination to create entertainment and fun. This is an account of a Halloween party held in Lodi in 1915 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Washington Hill. Maurice, their son, left notes and mementos relating to the party.

▲ *Party Napkin.*

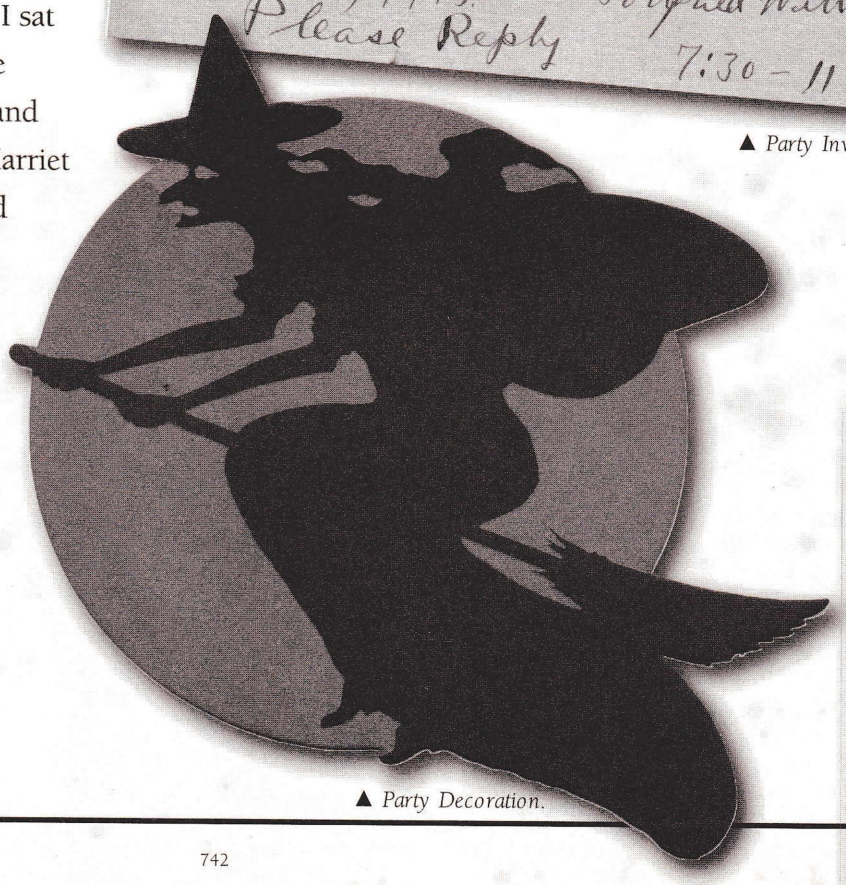
On Halloween Eve of 1915, Maurice Hill and his friend Gottfried Whittmayer hosted a Masquerade Party at the Hill House, 115 S. School Street in Lodi. The guest list included Rosetta Pearson, Alma Smith, Frank Coleman, Virginia Kilgore, Herman Kemp, Harriet Prentice, Harold Adams, Fern Darcy, Johnnie Whittmayer, Wilma Clark, Charlie Black, Eleanor Smith, Lester Randolph, Marian Schu, Maurice Davies, Helen Henderson, Anna Bauer, Howard Brown and Vernon Steele. Invitations were handmade and written to each person invited.

Refreshments at the party included vanilla ice cream, pineapple sherbet, four kinds of cake, nuts, candied apples, bon-bons, and fortunes in peanut shells.

Most of the guests were in costume. All the girls were masked except Helen. Not one of the boys were masked except Maurice, who was dressed as an Indian. He wrote, "They didn't know me until I sat down." Rosetta, Harriet and Anna were dressed as Japanese girls and Maurice and others did not recognize Rosetta and Harriet because of their masks. Alma, Fern and Marian were clowns. Wilma was an Indian. Her costume was similar to the one Maurice wore. Eleanor was dressed as a Spanish girl. Virginia wore a Halloween dress, yellow and covered in cats. Vernon was dressed as Little Bo-Peep.


Maurice Hill
You are requested to be present at a Masquerade Party, Hallowe'en eve, to be given by Maurice Hill and Gottfried Wittmayer at the home of the former Maurice Hill.
Oct. 30, 1915.
Please Reply
Gottfried Wittmayer
7:30 - 11 P.M.

▲ *Party Invitation.*



▲ *Party Decoration.*

Hallowe'en
Good luck at Hallowe'en
Hallowe'en Greetings.
POST CARD
MADE IN U.S.A.
Dear Maurice
A year ago you invited me to your hallowe'en party. I'd like to let you know that I hadn't forgotten you. Write soon. Your Friend
Freeman
Maurice Hill

▲ *Halloween Post Cards received by Maurice and Party Decorations.*

HALLOWE'EN

Written by Maurice S. Hill
and published by the Lodi Sentinel

'Tis Hallowe'en and phantom wings
Disturb the dusky air,
As vaporous shapes and shadows dance,
Cavorting everywhere.

They peep at you from tree and hedge,
They scoot above your head,
They jump at you in darkened lanes,
And circle 'round your bed.

On All Saint's Eve, jack-o'-lanterns
Grin into the night,
Some on poles and about them sheets
To cause the people fright.

And if you hear a swish and feel
The air blow 'gainst your face,
You'll know the old witch on her broom
Has just passed by the place.

And black cats flit across the paths –
The moon seems cold and clear –
A thousand subtle whisperings
Break the stillness near.

In pumpkin field, the cunning elves,
Each year do romp and play,
Plucking the autumn colors, and
Dancing in gay array.

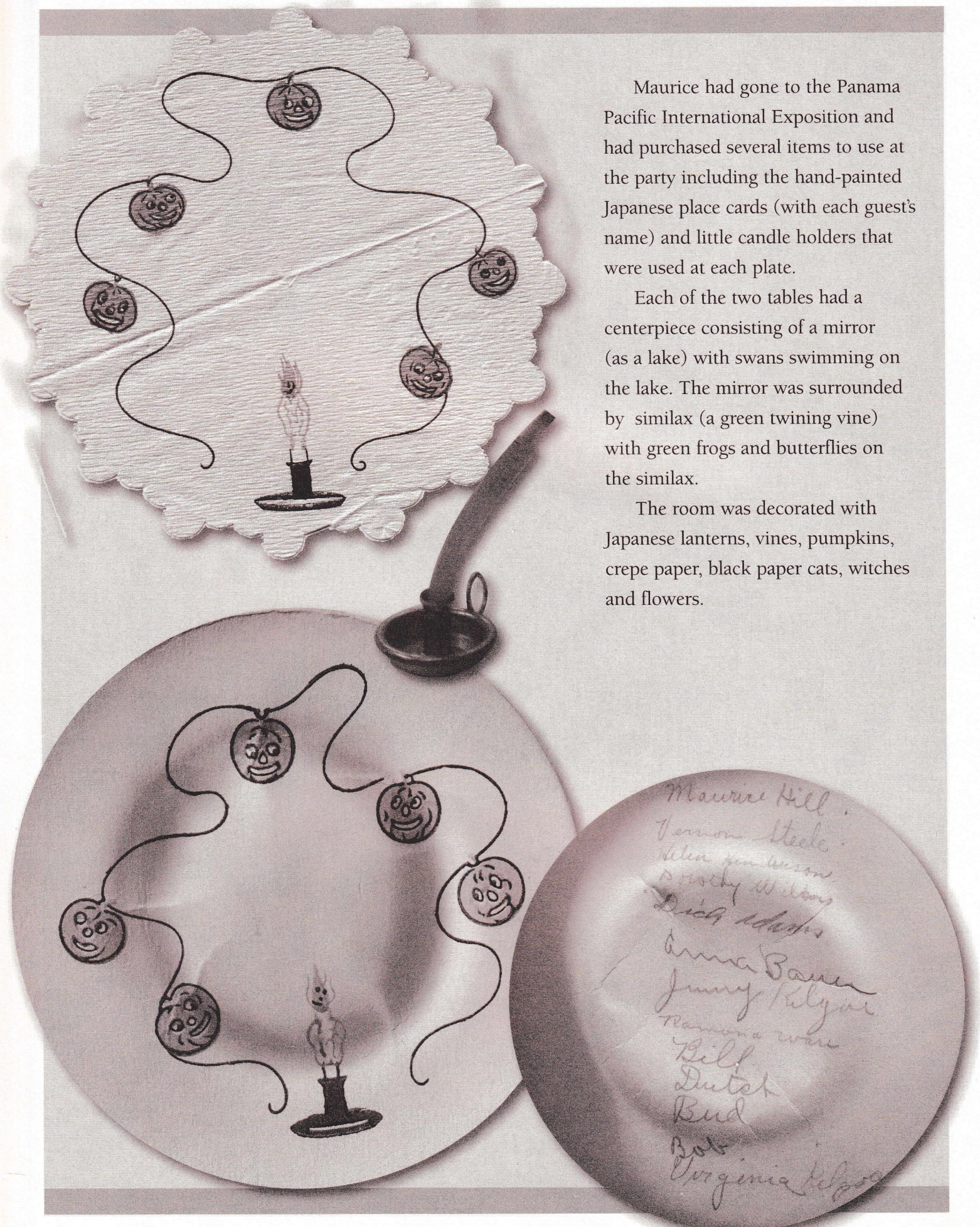
Around the fire-place at home,
You hear a spooky tale,
And you are almost sure to think
You hear a ghoulish wail.

From lighted houses, comes the sound
Of youthful voices merry,
Nor heed they, the tiny tapping
On the window, by a fairy.

An owl from somewhere hoots his hoot;
And answers echo far –
A spider sets his lair and weaves
a net of silver bar.

But as the clock booms forth mid-night,
There's silence – so 'tis said,
And Hallowe'en is gone, and you
Lay dreaming in your bed.

▲ *Print of Party tablecloth and post cards received by Maurice Hill.*

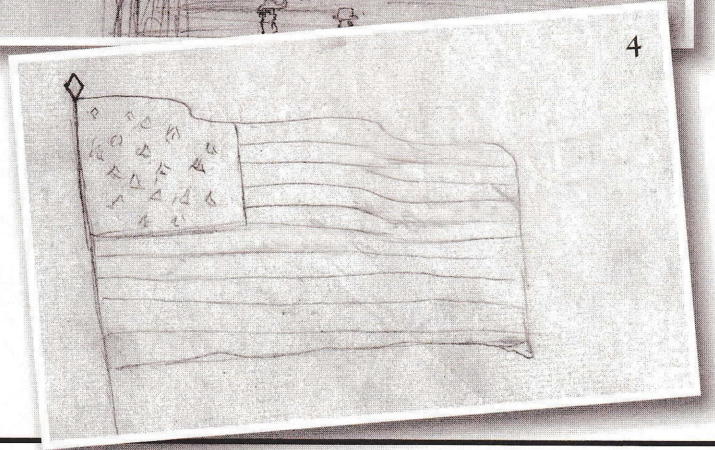


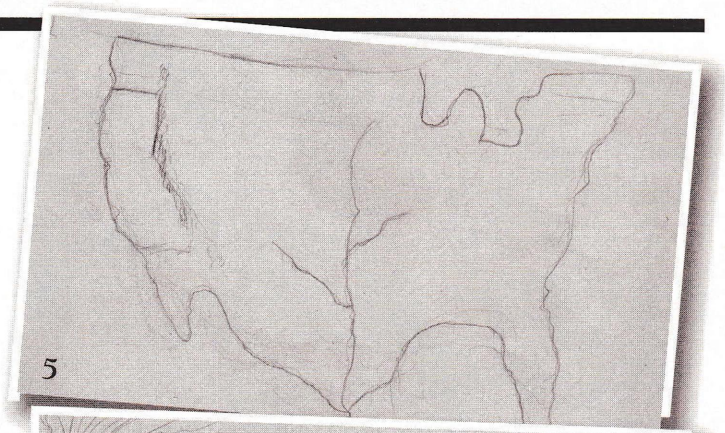
Maurice had gone to the Panama Pacific International Exposition and had purchased several items to use at the party including the hand-painted Japanese place cards (with each guest's name) and little candle holders that were used at each plate.

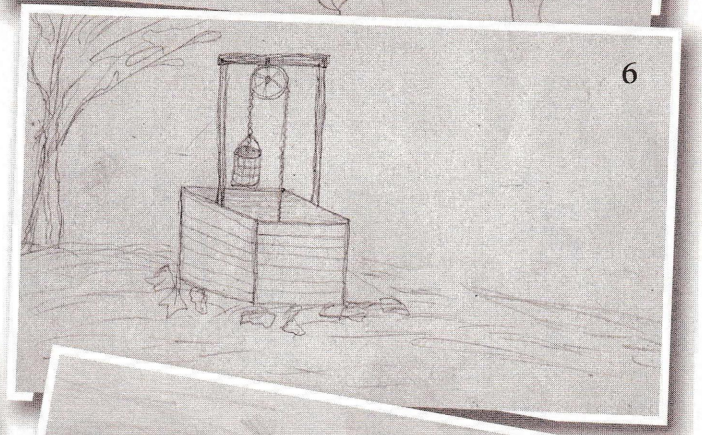
Each of the two tables had a centerpiece consisting of a mirror (as a lake) with swans swimming on the lake. The mirror was surrounded by similax (a green twining vine) with green frogs and butterflies on the similax.

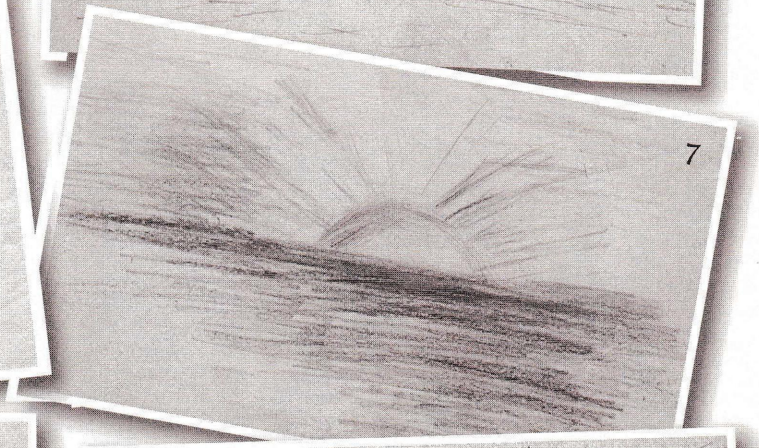
The room was decorated with Japanese lanterns, vines, pumpkins, crepe paper, black paper cats, witches and flowers.

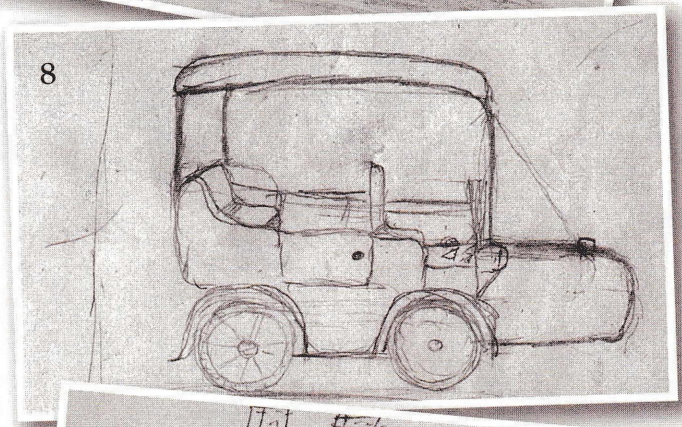
One of the games they played used handmade drawings of song titles of the day. They had to name the song illustrated. These are the pictures – can you name the titles? Remember – think 1915. Herman Kemp and Helen Henderson won the prizes.
(See last page for answers.)

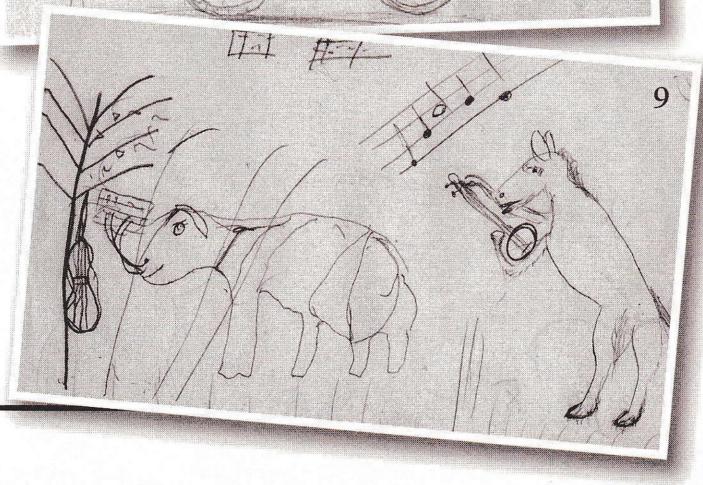






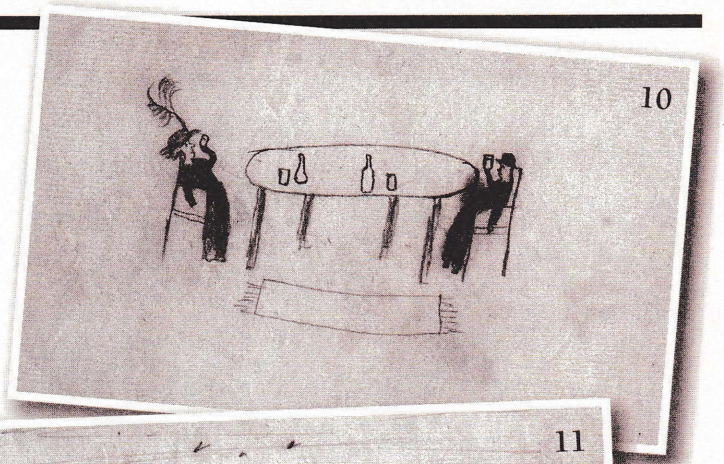


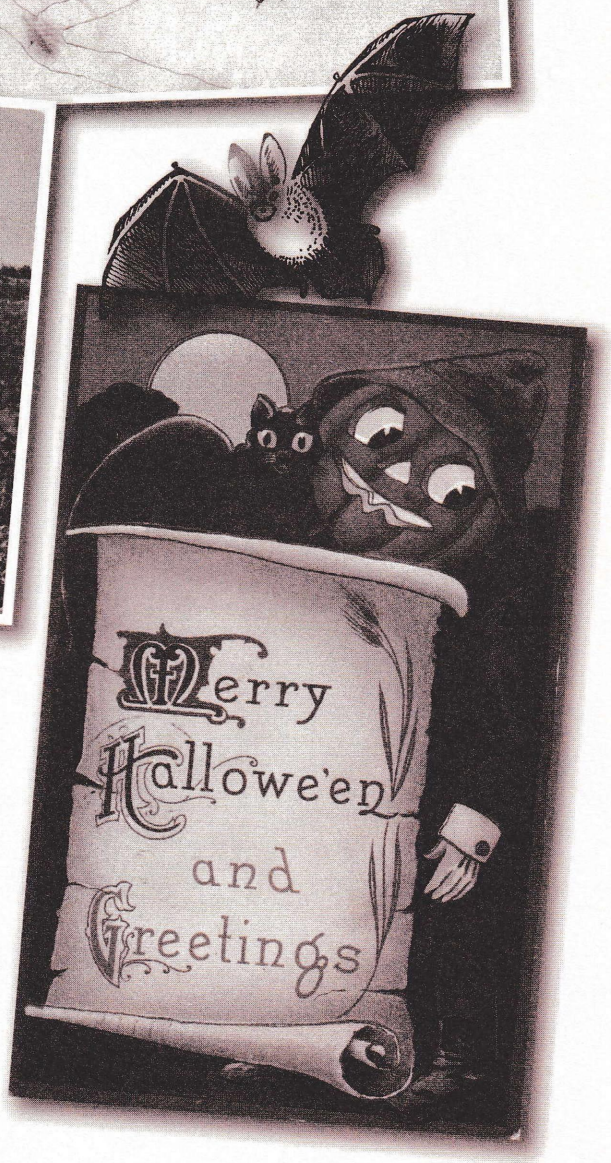




Maurice wrote, "We went home about 11:15 and Rosetta and I talked about an hour. When we went out to her place Herman and Harriet went with us. On the way we took a chair off of Black's porch and set it up on top of Spikerman's fence. We took another chair, a lawn mower, and a flower pot and we set them out in the road with the lawn mower on the chair. We took some pumpkins out of a field and rolled them up on someone's lawn. I got home at one o'clock and met Gottfried at Fuller's Corner and we went home to bed and talked until two a.m.

Maurice also wrote that, "he had a good time at the party."





▲ *Halloween Post Cards received by Maurice.*

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Answers to Song Title Game:

1. Home Sweet Home
2. In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree
3. By the Beautiful Sea
4. The Star Spangled Banner
5. My Own United States
6. The Old Oaken Bucket
7. Just As the Sun Goes Down
8. In My Merry Oldsmobile
9. Jungle Town
10. This Is the Life
11. I'm on My Way to Mandalay